



CITY OF TUCSON

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF TUCSON MOVES FORWARD ON HOUGHTON AREA MASTER PLANNING EFFORT

On Tuesday, April 15, the City of Tucson Comprehensive Planning Task Force will host an Open House from 6-7 p.m. at the Pima Community College East Campus (Community Meeting Room), 8181 E. Irvington. Task Force Director Albert Elias, City Manager James Keene, and project consultant Timothy Rood of Calthorpe Associates (Berkeley, CA) will discuss the unique opportunities of the Houghton Area Master Plan (HAMP) with the Citizens Review Committee (CRC), the Technical Advisory Team (TAT), and the general public. A business meeting with the CRC and the TAT will follow the presentation.

During the next 12-14 months, the City of Tucson will be involved in a process to master plan the Houghton area (see boundary map attached). The master planning process will include a variety of opportunities for public participation. It is anticipated that the process will culminate in 2004 with a draft plan that would then be scheduled for Planning Commission review and recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

The Tucson *General Plan* and Arizona State Law require undeveloped State Trust Land in the City's designated evolving edge and future city growth areas to be master planned prior to development. The State Land Department has identified 7,500 acres along the Houghton Corridor as the first focus for future land sales. Mayor and Council have initiated the HAMP effort to provide master planned guidance for development in this area. The *General Plan's* Desert Village Model will be used as a guide in the master planning process. The Desert Village Model strategically locates Desert Village Centers, Community Centers, and Neighborhood Centers to increase transit use, reduce air pollution, improve delivery of public and private services, and create inviting places to live, work, and play. The primary focus of this master planning effort is to build community.

The Comprehensive Planning Task Force is a multi-disciplinary team comprised of 40 City employees from Planning, Transportation, Historic Preservation, and Annexation. The team is responsible for long-range comprehensive land-use planning and addressing land use and future development issues.

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